

ISSUE 16 Winter 2022

Equine NEWS

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Equine

COMPASSION, CARE AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

The picture that we have used on the cover for this years winter edition was taken by Paul, on Mellfell in 2021 and may well be used as the subject of Paul's artwork in the future.

Please email equine@paragonvet.com if you have any topic suggestions for either the newsletter or Facebook page.

****STAFF NEWS****

Congratulations to Paul who recently celebrated 20 years of service at Paragon Vets. Many of you will of known Paul much longer than that.

Paul moved to Cumbria in the Autumn of 1988 and worked locally as a mixed vet. He formed a link with Caldew Veterinary Group in late 1999 and from this point the formation of Paragon Veterinary Group and the development of the site at Townhead Farm, Newbiggin (where our equine facilities are based) began.

Paul is definitely the stalwart of the equine team and is well known to turn out at all times of day even when not on duty; always providing a great service to both you as clients and his patients.

He is a fountain of knowledge and also a great support to the rest of the equine team for which we are all very grateful.



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

On behalf of the practice the equine team would like to thank all of our clients for their support during 2022, it has been another busy year and we are looking forward to the challenges that 2023 will bring.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. During the festive period we will be providing our usual full emergency equine cover but the practice will only be open as follows:

	NEWBIGGIN	DALSTON
Friday 23rd December	8:00 - 5:00	8:00 - 7:00
Saturday 24th December	8:30 - 12:30	8:30 - 1:00
Sunday 25th December	Closed - Emergencies	Closed - Emergencies
Monday 26th December	Closed - Emergencies	Closed - Emergencies
Tuesday 27th December	Closed - Emergencies	Closed - Emergencies
Wednesday 28th December	8:00 - 5:30	8:00 - 7:00
Thursday 29th December	8:00 - 5:30	8:00 - 7:00
Friday 30th December	8:00 - 5:00	8:00 - 7:00
Saturday 31st December	8:30 - 12:30	8:30 - 1:00
Sunday 1st January	Closed - Emergencies	Closed - Emergencies
Monday 2nd January	Closed - Emergencies	Closed - Emergencies
Tuesday 3rd January	Normal working hours	Normal working hours



****CHRISTMAS CARDS****

As part of our drive to creating a more sustainable practice we will not be posting Christmas cards again this year.

Instead we will be making a charitable donation, keep an eye on Facebook for more information.

Charlotte Pennington - BVetMed (hons) MRCVS

WINTER WORMING

It is important to worm all horses, ponies and donkeys over the winter with a product that treats encysted small red worm larvae and, if necessary also tapeworm.



During the spring, summer and autumn months we advise performing regular faecal worm egg counts (FWEC) to assess parasite burden but at this time of year they are unreliable as neither tapeworm or encysted small red worm larvae can be detected on a FWEC. A saliva test is available to check for tapeworm infection which can reduce unnecessary worming.

Tapeworms can cause digestive disturbances, loss of condition and colic if a horse develops a large burden of worms.

Small redworm larvae encyst within your horse's gut wall, especially in the autumn and winter when the temperatures decrease. If the larvae are not treated, a sudden mass emergence of the larvae in the spring when temperatures increase can cause severe gut damage leading to diarrhoea and colic which can be fatal.

We normally recommend waiting until after a few significant, hard frosts have occurred before giving winter wormers to horses. This is because the main worm we are concerned about treating over the winter is the encysted red worm larvae. The colder temperatures trigger the larvae to halt development and hibernate / encyst in the horse gut walls over the winter. They then lie dormant, waiting for warmer temperatures before reactivating development again in the spring. The idea of the winter wormer is to time the treatment for when the larvae are dormant and kill them. This specific timing avoids a sudden mass re-emergence of huge numbers of larvae when temperatures get warmer.

In previous years we have had significant frosts or even snow earlier on in the year meaning winter wormers have been given historically any time from October and have been effective.



This year however it has been much milder and we are only really just now at the beginning of December starting to see signs of colder temperatures. Therefore we recommend waiting until December/early January to provide a winter worming treatment. If you have given your horse a winter wormer already this year in October/early November bear in mind they may potentially need a repeat treatment in January to provide complete protection.

It is hugely important to make sure you use the correct type of product for winter worming as not all brands of wormers will kill encysted small red worm larvae and tapeworms. There are in fact only a few options that are actually available. The usual recommendation is a Moxidectin based product for encysted small red worm larvae and if needed this can be combined with a tapeworm treatment (Praziquantel). A 5 day treatment of Fenbendazole can also be used for encysted small red worm but is not as effective as Moxidectin.

Again I cannot stress enough how important it is to use the correct product, using the incorrect product is costly, ineffective, increases the chance of resistance developing and may actually put your horse at risk.

If you need any advice on winter worming then please speak to the equine team, we are more than happy to help guide you.

COMPLIMENTARY CUSHING'S DISEASE (PPID) TESTING

Throughout the year we are able to offer FREE laboratory fees for PPID testing on horses that have not previously been tested or diagnosed with Cushing's Disease.

Check out www.careaboutcushings.co.uk for more information about Cushings Disease and the testing scheme. If your horse has been diagnosed with Cushings Disease you can sign up



to join the membership platform, as part of this you will then be entitled to a yearly voucher for FREE lab fees when performing a monitoring test.

Please speak to one of the equine team if you have any questions or would like to discuss whether testing would be beneficial for your horse.

Freya Wood - BVSC MRCVS

WOUNDS



Wounds are an unavoidable part of horse ownership and it is important to know what to do should your horse sustain a wound.

Often wounds appear as minor cuts and scrapes, but it is important to know when your horse requires veterinary attention. Wounds that are more than skin deep or a few centimetres long, where there is a lot of bleeding or if it is very dirty or difficult to assess require assessment by a vet.

If the wound involves a joint, tendon, eye or is over the chest or abdomen there may be underlying structures affected which may require urgent attention.

Is the wound bleeding heavily?

Apply a clean dressing to the wound with several layers of cotton wool or Gamgee and bandage tightly. If blood seeps through the bandage do not remove but apply more layers on top. If the wound can't be bandaged firm hand pressure can be used. You should call your vet to attend as soon as possible.

Is the horse lame?

If the horse cannot place weight on the limb leave the horse where it is in case there is also a fracture under the wound. If the horse is able to move it should be walked slowly to a clean, well-lit yard or stable if possible but if in any doubt leave the horse where it is. Your vet should be called in case there is a joint or tendon sheath involved.

Is there is something in the wound?

If a foreign body is visible leave it in place if possible and call your vet immediately. By leaving it in place it can make it easier for your vet to evaluate the damage and it may cause more damage by removing it yourself.



Having a well-stocked first aid kit in an easy to access place on your yard is a necessity. It can be of great use in an emergency whilst waiting for your vet to arrive and can reduce a lot of panic. The kit should be clearly labelled and include the name and number of your vet practice. Items should be stored in a clean, dry box and replaced immediately if used or expired.

Things to include in your first aid kit:

- Antiseptic solution such as chlorhexidine (which should be used very dilute)
- Antiseptic cream
- Salt to make up salt water solution
- Sterile non-adhesive dressings
- Cotton wool
- Bandaging material
- Medical tape
- Scissors
- Thermometer



If the horse has not been vaccinated for tetanus or received a tetanus booster in the last 2 years they must be seen by a vet. Tetanus is caused by a bacteria in the soil and will get into even the smallest of wounds. This disease is often fatal so veterinary attention must be sought in the case of an unvaccinated horse with a wound.

If you are in any doubt about a wound call your vet.

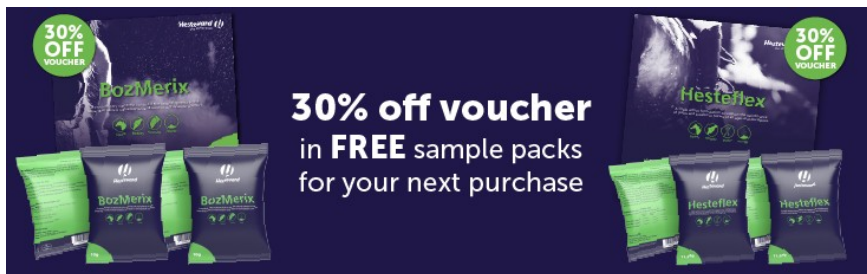
****JOINT SUPPLEMENTS****

If you would be interested in trying a sample of our joint care products HesteFlex or BozMerix please use the following link

<https://www.hesteward.com/freesample.html>

The sample pack contains 2 free sachets and a 30% off voucher for your next purchase.

For more information about the Hesteward products that we stock at the practice please visit www.hesteward.com or speak to one of the equine vets.



CHRISTMAS FACEBOOK COMPETITION



The countdown to Christmas is now on! To celebrate and help kick start the festive cheer we are giving you the chance to win one of our equine first aid kits which are perfect to either keep on the yard or to take with you to events.

To be in with a chance of winning all you need to do is visit our Facebook page then **LIKE** our page, **LIKE and SHARE** the competition post and **COMMENT** with a picture of your horse, pony or donkey who will hopefully not require the use of the first aid kit if you win!

If you are not on Facebook and would like to enter the competition

please email

kelly.smith@paragonvet.com or call 017684 83789.

GOOD
LOCK

The winner will be picked at random on Monday 19th December



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